



Title | Godly or Worldly?
Series | IN SPITE OF MYSELF
Text | Esther 2:1-18
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | April 30, 2017

Sermon Notes

Esther 2:1 After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. **2** Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. **3** And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. **4** And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so. **5** Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, **6** who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. **7** He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter. **8** So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. **9** And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem. **10** Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. . . . *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Esther 2:17

the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

- Read Esther 2:1-18. Identify all the instances where it seems like Mordecai and Esther might be *godly* people.

Tuesday:

- Read Esther 2:1-18. Identify all the instances where it seems like Mordecai and Esther might be *worldly* people.

Wednesday:

- Think back over the past month or so about your motivations and behaviors. If you had to categorize every motivation and behavior into one of three buckets—godly, worldly, or questionable—what would the distribution look like? Can you identify with the messiness of Esther’s life? If so, how so?

Thursday:

- Why do you think some people view Esther so differently, some extolling her godliness, and others pointing out her worldliness?

Friday:

- Eventually, God used Esther to save the Jews from extermination. In light of this, what do you think is the point of Esther 2:1-18? How does it apply to you?

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ESV